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METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DETECTING THE COMPLETE STOP OF A VEHICLE

The present invention relates to a method and device for detecting the complete stop of a vehicle, the complete stop being detected as a function of the measured speed of at least one of the vehicle's wheels. Such a method is known from the German DE 195 03 270 A1, for example. It describes determining a complete-stop instant of a vehicle by obtaining a suitable estimate for the vehicle's complete-stop instant by ascertaining a speed-threshold value for at least one wheel during a braking phase, by subsequently acquiring at least one additional speed value for the wheel at a plurality of consecutive points of time until a measurable minimum speed is reached, and by estimating the complete-stop instant by generating one or more speed gradients between the acquired speed values and extrapolating them to the speed zero. However, this method for determining the complete-stop instant has proven to not always be sufficiently accurate.

The object of the present invention is, therefore, to provide an improved method and device, respectively, for detecting the complete stop of a vehicle.

The present invention achieves the objective by a method in accordance with Claim 1 and by a device in accordance to Claim 16. In this context, the complete stop of a vehicle is detected as a function of the vehicle's speed or of the speed of at least one wheel of the vehicle, as well as of a function of one quantity representing the braking force when the vehicle is braked. In this context, the quantity representing the braking force is advantageously the braking pressure, in

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particular for a hydraulic brake. As a rule, detecting complete stop denotes detecting the complete-stop instant. However, detecting complete stop can also include detecting the complete-stop location.

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The procedure in accordance with the present invention makes it possible for a vehicle's complete stop to be recognized with much greater precision than does the known method. If, for example, shortly before complete stop, the pressure on the
10 brake is eased in order to reduce the holding pressure (chauffeur braking), significantly increased accuracy in detecting the complete stop is attained with the present invention. This is also true when maneuvering on an incline, in which case the braking pressure is often reduced just prior
15 to reaching the complete-stop instant to the point that the vehicle moves at a steady, very low speed. In such cases, the present invention also makes it possible to detect complete stop of the vehicle with significantly improved accuracy.

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Moreover, in an advantageous embodiment of the present invention, complete-stop detection occurs as a function of at least two speed thresholds, a first speed threshold and a second speed threshold.

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In an additional advantageous embodiment of the present invention, the second speed threshold essentially corresponds to the speed, below which the speed of the wheel can no longer be measured using the measuring method implemented in the vehicle. In this context, the second speed threshold is advantageously between 1.5 km/h and 3.0 km/h.

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In another advantageous embodiment of the present invention, the first speed threshold is determined as a function of the vehicle's driving situation.

In another advantageous embodiment of the present invention, the first speed threshold is selected so that the vehicle's engine is uncoupled. In this context, the first speed threshold lies advantageously between 3.0 km/h and 6.0 km/h, or, provided the engine is uncoupled, between 4.0 km/h and 5.0 km/h.

In an additional advantageous embodiment of the present invention, an average deceleration value is determined from the difference between the first speed threshold and the second speed threshold, as well as from the time period in which the speed of the vehicle during braking has a value between the first speed threshold and the second speed threshold.

In another advantageous embodiment of the present invention, a characteristic curve between the vehicle deceleration and the quantity representing the braking force is selected as a function of the average deceleration value and the value of the quantity representing the braking force during the time period in which the vehicle's speed during braking has a value between the first speed threshold and the second speed threshold.

In an additional advantageous embodiment of the present invention, while the vehicle is traveling at a speed below the second speed threshold, the instantaneous deceleration of the vehicle is determined from the value of the quantity representing the braking force using the selected characteristic curve, and at least one of the quantities, complete-stop instant and complete-stop location, of the vehicle is determined on the basis of the instantaneous deceleration.

In a further advantageous embodiment of the present invention, for a braking pressure up to 20 bar, in particular up to 10 bar, the characteristic curve between the vehicle deceleration and the braking pressure is selected so that the inclination of the roadway on which the vehicle is braking is an arbitrary parameter of a family of characteristics between the vehicle deceleration and braking pressure. Selecting the roadway inclination as an arbitrary parameter is equivalent to selecting the acceleration, conditional upon the roadway inclination, as an arbitrary parameter.

In a further advantageous embodiment of the present invention, for a braking pressure above 10 bar, in particular above 20 bar, the characteristic curve between the vehicle deceleration and the braking pressure is selected so that the vehicle mass is an arbitrary parameter of a family of characteristics between the vehicle deceleration and braking pressure.

In a further advantageous embodiment of the present invention, at least one of the values for acceleration, conditional upon the inclination of the roadway on which the vehicle is braking, and for the vehicle's mass (or a quantity essentially proportional to the mass) is determined as a function of the average deceleration value and of the value of the quantity representing the braking force during the time period in which the vehicle's speed during braking has a value between the first speed threshold and the second speed threshold.

In an additional advantageous embodiment of the present invention, when starting the vehicle after a complete stop, the brake is released as a function of at least one of the quantities for the inclination of the roadway on which the vehicle is braking (or for acceleration conditional upon the roadway inclination) and for the vehicle's mass.

Further advantages and details are revealed in the subsequent description of the exemplary embodiments. The individual figures show:

- 5 Figure 1 an exemplary embodiment of a device for detecting a complete stop;
Figure 2 the braking pressure of the vehicle over time;
Figure 3 the vehicle's speed over time;
Figure 4 a complete-stop flag over time;
10 Figure 5 a family of characteristic curves between the braking pressure and the vehicle deceleration, including the acceleration which acts on the vehicle as a result of the roadway inclination as an arbitrary parameter;
15 Figure 6 an additional exemplary embodiment of a device for detecting a complete stop;
Figure 7 a family of characteristic curves between the braking pressure and the vehicle deceleration, including the laden state of the vehicle as an arbitrary parameter;
20 Figure 8 a particularly advantageous embodiment of a device for detecting a complete stop;
Figure 9 a travel-direction detection which cooperates with a device for detecting a complete stop; and
25 Figure 10 an independent travel-direction detection.

Figure 1 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of a device 5 for detecting a complete stop according to the present invention. Device 5 for detecting a complete stop determines a complete-stop flag F_s as a function of a second speed threshold V_2 , a transmission value G , speed v of the vehicle whose complete stop is to be detected, and of braking pressure p_b of the vehicle's brake. A speed sensor, such as a speedometer, is provided for measuring speed. If a vehicle dynamics control

(FDR) is implemented in a road vehicle as described, for example, in the article "FDR - die Fahrdynamikregelung von Bosch", (FDR - Bosch Vehicle Dynamics Control System) by A. van Zanten, R. Erhardt, and G. Pfaff in Automobiltechnische Zeitschrift (ATZ) 96, 1994, 11, pp. 674-689, the value calculated in the vehicle dynamics control is advantageously used for the speed. A pressure sensor or a pressure monitor 2 is provided for determining braking pressure p_B . Transmission value G indicates if transmission 3 has decoupled the vehicle's engine. Advantageously, speed threshold v_2 is selected so that it essentially corresponds to the speed, below which the speed of one of the vehicle's wheels can no longer be measured, in particular using the sensory technology implemented in the vehicle. In this context, second speed threshold v_2 is typically between 1.5 km/h and 3.0 km/h.

Device 5 for detecting a complete stop has a threshold-value calculator 4, which calculates a first speed threshold v_1 . In this context, threshold-value calculator 4 determines first speed threshold v_1 in such a way that the vehicle's engine is uncoupled. For this purpose, threshold-value calculator 4 receives transmission value G, which indicates whether the engine is uncoupled. It is advantageous when first speed threshold v_1 is low. Therefore, speed v is supplied to threshold-value calculator 4. If the engine is uncoupled at a speed of between 4.0 km/h and 5.0 km/h, threshold-value calculator 4 places speed threshold v_1 in this range. If the engine is not yet uncoupled at a speed of 4 km/h, threshold-value calculator 4 defines a lower speed than first speed threshold v_1 , e.g., 3.0 km/h.

Device 5 for detecting a complete stop also has a comparator 6, which determines points of time t_1 and t_2 , at which vehicle's speed v equals first speed threshold v_1 and second

speed threshold v_2 , respectively. This is clarified in Figure 3, where speed v is plotted over time t , the vehicle whose speed profile is shown in Figure 3 braking with a braking pressure p_B according to Figure 2. As Figure 3 shows, t_1 is the instant when v assumes value v_1 , and t_2 is the instant when v assumes value v_2 .

Furthermore, device 5 for detecting a complete stop has an averager 7, which generates average value \bar{p}_B of braking pressure p_B between the two instants t_1 and t_2 . Device 5 for detecting a complete stop also has a deceleration calculator 8 for calculating an average vehicle deceleration a . In this context, average deceleration a is expressed as:

$$a = \frac{v_2 - v_1}{t_2 - t_1}$$

Acceleration a_H , which acts on the vehicle based on the roadway inclination, is determined from thus determined average deceleration a and from average value \bar{p}_B of braking pressure p_B , using a downgrade-force calculator 9. In this context, a family of characteristic curves between braking pressure p_B and vehicle deceleration a_f , including acceleration a_H , which acts on the vehicle due to roadway inclination, as an arbitrary parameter, as shown in Figure 5 is used as a baseline. In Figure 5, straight line 20 denotes the relation between braking pressure p_B and vehicle deceleration a_f on a straight roadway. If the point derived from the average deceleration and average braking pressure \bar{p}_B is plotted on such a family of characteristics, a reading can be taken for acceleration a_H , acting on the vehicle due to roadway inclination. In the present exemplary embodiment, a purely linear family of characteristics is chosen. Thus, acceleration a_H , acting on the vehicle due to the roadway inclination, is expressed as:

$$a_H = a - \beta \bar{p}_B$$

Acceleration a_H thus calculated, which acts on the vehicle on account of the roadway inclination, is an input quantity in an instant-of-complete-stop calculator 10, as are instant t_2 , instantaneous braking pressure p_B , and second speed threshold v_2 . In this context, complete-stop instant t_3 is calculated in such a way that the following is valid:

$$v_2 + \int_{t_2}^{t_3} (a_H + \beta p_B) dt = 0$$

If the complete stop of the vehicle is reached, instant-of-complete-stop calculator 10 sets complete-stop flag F_s to value 1.

If complete-stop location S_3 is also to be determined, it is calculated as:

$$s_3 = \int_{t_2}^{t_3} \int_{t_2}^{t_3} (a_H + \beta p_B) dt \, dt$$

In the present exemplary embodiment, instant-of-complete-stop calculator 10 outputs a complete-stop flag F_s , which assumes value 1 when a complete stop is detected, and value 0 when complete stop is not detected. Figure 4 shows the time characteristic of complete-stop flag F_s for the present example.

Figure 3 illustrates the method of operation of device 5 for detecting a complete stop. Until vehicle's speed v reaches second speed threshold v_2 , speed v is known. This is elucidated by solid line 20. Below this second speed threshold v_2 , vehicle's speed v , indicated by dotted line 21, can no longer

be measured by the vehicle's speed sensor technology. However, the speed can be calculated using instant-of-complete-stop calculator 10 as:

$$v = v_2 + \int_{t_2}^t (a_H + \beta p_B) dt$$

Advantageously, in accordance with Figure 1, complete stop calculation device 5 is used for braking pressure p_B of up to 20 bar, in particular of up to 10 bar. On the other hand, for higher braking pressures p_B , in particular for braking pressures p_B above 20 bar, a device 32 for detecting a complete stop, as shown in Figure 6, is advantageously used. Laden-state calculator 30, which replaces downgrade-force calculator 9 in Figure 1, and instant-of-complete-stop calculator 31, which replaces instant-of-complete-stop calculator 10 in Figure 1, differentiate device 32 for detecting a complete stop from device 5 for detecting a complete stop.

Laden-state calculator 30 disregards the influence of the roadway inclination. On the other hand, laden-state calculator 30 determines a value β , which is essentially proportional to the vehicle's mass. For this purpose, a family of characteristics is the basis for laden-state calculator 30, as shown in Figure 7 in an exemplary embodiment. Figure 7 shows a family of characteristics, including the vehicle's mass as an arbitrary parameter. As the vehicle's mass changes, so does gradient β of the straight lines of the family of characteristics. In this context, straight line 40 denotes the relation between braking pressure p_B and vehicle deceleration a_F for an unladen vehicle. Using acceleration a and average braking pressure p_B , a point 41, from which value β is derived, is established in the family of characteristics. A simple linear relation is used as a basis for the present exemplary embodiment, so that β is expressed as:

$$\beta = \frac{a}{\bar{p}_B}$$

Value β , thus calculated, is an input quantity in instant-of-complete-stop calculator 31, as are instant t_2 , instantaneous braking pressure p_B , and second speed threshold v_2 . In this context, complete-stop instant t_3 is calculated in such a way that the following is valid:

$$v_2 + \int_{t_2}^{t_3} \beta p_B dt = 0$$

If the complete stop of the vehicle is reached, instant-of-complete-stop calculator 31 sets complete-stop flag F_s to value 1.

If complete-stop location S_3 is also to be determined, it is calculated as follows:

$$S_3 = \int_{t_2}^{t_3} \int_{t_2}^{t_3} \beta p_B dt dt$$

Figure 8 shows a particularly advantageous exemplary embodiment of a device 47 for detecting a complete stop. Disturbance-value calculator 45, which replaces downgrade-force calculator 9 in Figure 1 and laden-state calculator 32 in Figure 6, respectively, and instant-of-complete-stop calculator 46, which replaces instant-of-complete-stop calculator 10 in Figure 1 and instant-of-complete-stop calculator 31 in Figure 6, respectively, differentiate device 47 for detecting a complete stop from device 5 for detecting a complete stop and device 32 for detecting a complete stop.

When instantaneous braking pressure p_B is lower than a pressure

limit value, disturbance-value calculator 45 determines acceleration a_H , which acts on the vehicle due to the roadway inclination, using the same method as that of downgrade-force calculator 9, and when braking pressure p_B is greater than the pressure limit value, disturbance-value calculator 45 determines value β using the same method as that of laden-state calculator 30. The pressure limit value is 20 bar, for example. When braking pressure p_B is lower than the pressure limit value, instant-of-complete-stop calculator 46 determines the value of complete-stop flag F_s using the same method as that of instant-of-complete-stop calculator 10. However, if braking pressure p_B is greater than the pressure limit value, instant-of-complete-stop calculator 46 calculates complete-stop flag F_s using the same method as that of instant-of-complete-stop calculator 31.

In one advantageous refinement, the family of characteristics underlying downgrade-force calculator 9 and laden-state calculator 30, respectively, is calibrated during braking. Thus, the actual instantaneous characteristic curve between braking pressure p_B and vehicle deceleration a_f can be determined from the change in braking pressure p_B during braking operations. If the roadway inclination remains constant during braking, the roadway inclination and the braking curve (relation between braking pressure and vehicle deceleration) can be determined. The engine drag torque is then preferably deducted to the degree it is known. For calibrating the characteristic curves, for example, vehicle deceleration a_f is stored at the beginning of braking, and the relation between braking pressure p_B and vehicle deceleration

a_f is subsequently determined. The thus determined relation can be approximated, for example, using a mean straight line.

The device for detecting a complete stop is implemented in a particularly advantageous way together with a travel direction detection. An exemplary embodiment of such a travel direction detection 52 is shown in Figure 9. Travel direction detection 52 has a speed estimator 50 for calculating an estimated speed value and a comparator 51. Speed estimator 50 calculates estimated speed value as:

$$\tilde{v} = \int_{t_0}^{t_4} \left(\frac{M_{\text{mot}} i_{\text{getr}}}{m_f r_{\text{rad}}} + a_H + \beta p_B \right) dt$$

M_{mot} being the engine torque;
 i_{getr} being the transmission ratio;
 m_f being the vehicle's mass; and
 r_{rad} being the wheel radius.

Comparator 51 is used to compare estimated speed value to a value for speed v measured at instant t_4 or determined by a vehicle dynamics control FDR (see above). If \tilde{v} and v essentially correspond in absolute value, then the operational sign of \tilde{v} represents travel direction R_v .

Figure 10 illustrates an exemplary embodiment for an independent travel direction detection 53, i.e., a travel direction detection without the complete-stop detection according to the present invention. In this context, reference numerals 1 through 9 are equivalent to those in Figure 1, and

reference numerals 50 and 51 to those in Figure 9. By using a travel direction detection device of this kind, travel direction R_v can be detected even without complicated travel-direction detection sensor technology.

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